

JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD...SAVED BY HIS LIFE

"JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD...SAVED BY HIS LIFE"

[READ ROMANS 5:8-11]

Beloved, as soon as a sinner believes Christ, he is justified, declared innocent, declared not guilty, washed in the blood of the Lamb. And he is not justified for *SOME* of his sins, but ever so blessedly for *ALL* of them! Here stands a man completely guilty, but the moment he believes Christ, believing on his blessed person and finished saving work, his pardon at once he receives and his sins are no longer his, but made to be Christ's.

The gospel is such good news that the word pardon doesn't fully capture it! We must say, the moment a sinner believes Christ, he is made to know that he has been made completely innocent through the blood of Christ. And it's not as though he has merely been forgiven, but as the truth is in Jesus, the believing sinner, before God in Christ, has no sin. God declares to his people through his word "*I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more*" (HEBREWS 8:12).

God says to you who believe on his Son, your *sins and iniquities will I remember no more*, for our Heavenly Father *hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ*. The sins of all our transgressions were laid upon God's darling Son, and they were put away by the sacrifice of himself. That man, woman, or child who believes on Christ, stands guiltless in the sight of God, accepted in His beloved Son. Beloved, *You are complete in Christ!* God has *forgiven you of all your trespasses*. Reader, that's justification by faith—the blessed truth of the gospel! The moment a sinner believes on Christ, all his guilt is taken away and he ceases to be regarded by divine justice as a guilty creature. Indeed, the moment the sinner believes on Christ, the sinner ceases to be guilty in God's sight. And much more! every believing man, woman, or child becomes righteous, holy, and well pleasing in his sight. For by God's sovereign grace, a believing sinner is clothed in the very righteousness of God; having been made the righteousness of God in Christ.

Beloved, in the very moment Christ took our sins, we took Christ's righteousness, so that God looks upon the elect sinner, who but an hour ago was dead in sins, with as much love and affection as he ever looked upon his only begotten Son. Believing sinner, of God are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (1 CORINTHIANS 1:30-31).

Reader, has God opened his book to you? Have you been made to understand? Sanctification is not a process! Rather, it is a person! God's word teaches us that our sanctification is Christ himself. So beloved, glory in the Lord! for all the loveliness, all the perfection that Christ is, we have been powerfully made by God's free and sovereign grace, given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. AMEN! [2 TIMOTHY 1:9]

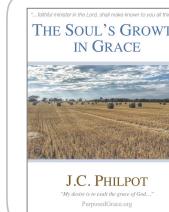
PASTOR

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

August 26th, 2018

"...thou, LORD, art good,
and ready to forgive; and
plenteous in mercy unto all
them that call upon THEE"

(PSALM 86:5)



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This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

HEBREWS 4:1-11 — REST

Recorded on Wednesday evening, April 26th, 2017

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 Apple's Podcast App or  Google's Play Music App

ONLY THE FULL HEART IS IN SAFETY

"WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN: THAT THY PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN THEE?"

(PSALM 85:6)

[Beloved,] be filled with the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus. *Only the full heart is in safety.* You [may] remember the parable of the unprofitable servant. As no single illustration can set forth completely and adequately spiritual realities, the Lord, after comparing the kingdom of heaven to ten virgins going forth to meet the Bridegroom, compares His people to servants, whom the master entrusts with talents, and who have to give an account of their stewardship. Why was the unprofitable servant cast into outer darkness? What sin had he committed? Of what crime had he been guilty? The parable is written for our instruction and warning. It cannot benefit those who are on the other side of the grave, or outside the professing Church. It is we who must ask earnestly, Why was that servant cast out? And is not this the answer, *Because he had not rejoiced in God?* He thought in heart (whatever sound truth he may have confessed, and whatever loving, truthful, and joyous hymns he may have sung), he thought in his heart that the Lord was a hard man. He had sufficient religion to make him uneasy, and to keep him in bondage, but not sufficient to make him happy, joyous, strong; to make him enterprising and energetic. He did not know that God delighteth in giving, that He is rich in mercy, that He can make all grace to abound unto us, and make us fruitful unto every good work. He did not believe that the Lord renews our strength and works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. And in the spirit of unbelief and narrow, selfish fear, he hid his one talent in the napkin of formal worship and outward obedience,

and then returned it to the Lord—but no longer the good and beautiful gift He had bestowed. Oh, Christians beloved, our blessed Lord is bountiful, generous, infinite in His goodness. His joy is that we should have a perpetual harvest: and as in Israel, the prophet Amos predicts, the days will come when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed, that harvest shall follow harvest, even so ours is to be constant rejoicing and bearing fruit; the Lord is our strength, and of Him is our fruit found. Be then in spirit always at the table of the Lord; rejoicing in Christ, starting with thanksgiving and the peace of God, work for Christ and in Christ, and thus the joy of the Lord will be your strength.

And if any one is listening to me who does not rejoice in Christ, the Savior, let me ask, Who but God can give peace and joy to the heart of man? What other voice but His can say, "Give Me thine heart"; "Come unto Me, and I will give thee rest"; "If any man thirst, let him come to Me and drink"? Is there any one else?

[Beloved] who in the whole universe [gives] what will satisfy your soul, now and forever? Think only that none can even understand your heart, that none can even fathom its depths and fully know your need and sorrow, your sin and fear; none but the Searcher of Hearts, God the Lord; still less can any but He heal and pardon, renew and bless; He only [gives] joy which will endure forevermore. Oh, that the Lord may revive us again, that we and many with and through us may rejoice in Him!

[PASTOR] ADOLPH SAPHIR (1831–1891)

PEACE WITH GOD

"...THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH THEE, THAT THOU MAYEST BE FEARED."

(PSALM 130:4)

Doubtings, fears, temptations, if not ordinarily prevailing, are consistent with gospel assurance. Though the devil's power be limited in reference unto the saints, yet his hands are not tied; though he cannot prevail against them, yet he can assault them. And although there be not "*an evil heart of unbelief*" in believers, yet there will still be unbelief in their hearts. Such an evidence, conviction, and persuasion of acceptance with God as are exclusive of all contrary reasonings, that suffer the soul to hear nothing of objections, that free and quiet it from all assaults, are neither mentioned in the Scripture, nor consistent with that state wherein we walk before God, nor possible on the account of Satan's will and ability to tempt, or of our own remaining unbelief. Assurance encourageth us in our combat; [however] it delivereth us not from it. We may have peace with God when we have none from the assaults of Satan.

[PASTOR] JOHN OWEN (1616–1883)